

LIAISON
BBC
Dept

16 July 1954

Mr. J. T. Campbell, Head
BBC Monitoring Service
Caversham Park
Reading, England

Dear John:

In line with our conversations early in June, I am availing myself of your extremely cooperative offer to call to your attention serious errors in translation.

In the translation of TASS to the provincial press, 26 June 1954 at 1320 GMT, the monitor translated a part of the Communist Central Committee agricultural decision as "the link organization in growing of grain and industrial crops." The error appears to be in translating the word "propeshnye" which should have been translated as "row." This would have made the passage read "the link organization in growing of row and industrial crops." The original translation was seized upon as representing a reversal on the issue which involved criticism of Andreyev in 1950, namely reliance on links rather than brigades in grain farming. The correct translation, of course, gives no grounds for speaking of a reversal because the role of links in cultivation of industrial crops, corn and potatoes was always acknowledged.

I would like to say that this error was picked up in FBIS however I must confess that we are not that astute. It was called to our attention by the Department of State who only found it after reading the PRAVDA report in the original language.

I realize that I have been quite candid in this criticism and hope that you will be equally so in calling to my attention errors on the part of FBIS personnel. I believe that between us we can increase the efficiency and accuracy of our two organizations.

Sincerely,

Chief, FBIS

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AMW:jmb

- 0 & 1 - Add
- 1 - AMW
- 1 - BBC file
- 1 - Exec file

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : CIA/FBIS

DATE: July 12, 1954

FROM : OIR/DRS

STAT

SUBJECT:

I want to call your attention to a translation appearing in the FBIS book for June 28 which led to some erroneous interpretations. The latter found their way into print in State Department and, I believe, CIA analyses.

In the text of the Party's recent agricultural decree on p. CC 17 of the book there is a reference in the third paragraph to "the link organization in growing of grain and industrial crops." This should have been "row (propashnye) and industrial crops." This was seized upon as representing a reversal on the issue which involved criticism of Andreyev in 1950, namely, reliance on links rather than brigades in grain farming. The correct translation gives no grounds for speaking of a reversal, because the role of links in cultivation of industrial crops, corn, and potatoes was always acknowledged.

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